

Warren-Prentis Historic District

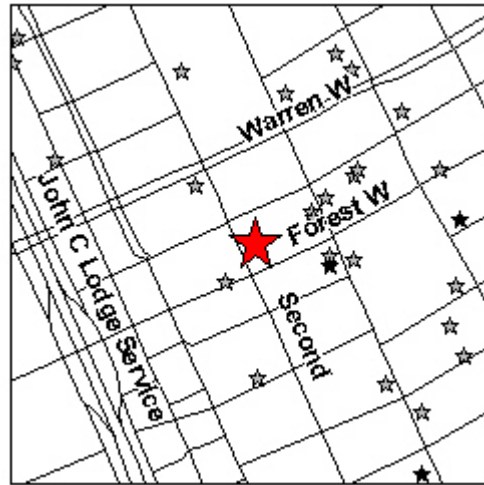
General boundaries: Woodward Avenue, Warren, Third, and the alley south of Prentis.

Local

State

State Marker

National ✓ 12/1/97



Prentis between 2nd and 3rd.

Historic overview:

The Warren-Prentis Historic District was home to a number of leading Detroit industrialists and businessmen, and was the “suburb” to which the first wave of upper and upper-middle class professionals moved from the city between 1880 and 1895. These residents commissioned many leading architects to design residences and early apartment buildings. The district is mostly intact, and includes residential, commercial, institutional, religious and other buildings as well as vacant land. It reflects the history of rapid growth, intensification of land use and sudden developmental decline following the Depression.

The land was originally known as the Park Lots, the Cass Farm, and the Jones/Crane Farm, all of which were subdivided in the 1800s. Due to technological advances, the growth of Detroit during the 1860s and generous lot sizes, the Warren-Prentis District became a popular area for development. The streetcar lines along Woodward and Third Avenues facilitated faster and more accessible transportation. Growth and technological change brought an expanded wealthy professional class, who chose to escape the pollution, noise, crime and overcrowding in the cities by moving to the “suburbs.”

As apartment style living became popular in the late 1880s, the construction of duplexes and small-scale apartments soared while single family construction nearly ceased. Commercial development expanded to Warren-Prentis after the turn of the century in response to the auto industry, peaking from 1915-1930. This district contains 108 historic structures, and reflects the development of this area because the majority of the pre-1930s building stock remains.